

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to recite the particle size for the solid surfactant. Support for this amendment may be found in claim 12 as filed.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dovey et al. (WO 00/34422), hereinafter "Dovey". Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spadoni et al. (WO 98/46716), hereinafter "Spadoni".

The Examiner correctly stated in the rejection that neither Dovey nor Spadoni discloses a laundry detergent composition comprising solid surfactant particles and their particle sizes. The Examiner then alleged that such modification would have been obvious. Applicants respectfully disagree. Motivation to modify must come from the art. It is not seen what in Dovey or Spadoni would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to use surfactant particles of the size recited by the applicants' amended claim 1. Spadoni does not appear to address the particle size at all. Dovey teaches particle sizes for an acid source and a carbon dioxide source of extremely small size, i.e. less than 150 microns, preferably less than 100 microns (see Abstract). It is not seen how, in light of this teaching, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to use binder particles of greater than 100 microns, in direct opposition to the teaching of Dovey. In light of complete absence in either Dovey or Spadoni of any teaching with respect to particle size of the surfactant, let alone the particle size of the range recited by applicants' amended claim 1; and in light of the specific teaching by Dovey of the principle ingredients in the granule of smaller than 150 microns size in direct juxtaposition to the present claim 1, it is not seen how one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led by either Dovey or Spadoni to employ surfactant particles as presently recited by applicants' claim 1. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over Dovey and Spadoni be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgement of the consideration of documents submitted concurrently with the Fifth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application as amended be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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